



Minnesota River Weekly Update

July 2nd, 2013

MPCA proposes to remove 2 sites from, add 2 sites to, Minnesota's Superfund list

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is inviting public comment on the proposed additions of two sites to and the deletion of two sites from the Permanent List of Priorities (PLP), the state Superfund list.

For more information <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNP/CA/bulletins/82a0a6> and details on the sites visit http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/stateregister/38_01.pdf

Minnesota River Board Meeting, Monday, July 15th, 2013

The Minnesota River Board will be gathering to discuss current events in the Minnesota River Basin. Guest speakers will be coming to present updates on the Le Sueur River Watershed Civic Engagement meetings and the MN River National Blueways Nomination, along with briefings on the MRB's staff's projects.

For more information contact (507) 389-5491 or visit <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

Youth Voices of Change: Climate Change Video Competition – Deadline July 15th

The Will Steger Foundation and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are sponsoring *Youth Voices of Change: Climate Change Video Competition* to raise awareness about climate change and the amazing youth engaged in solutions throughout the state of Minnesota. Climate change is the environmental issue of our time and we believe in the power of youth to develop solutions.

We invite youth entering Grades 4-12 (Fall 2013) to share their solutions and help raise awareness in the form of a video. Videos should be 30 seconds to 2 minutes, and creatively show how youth are engaging in solutions to climate change in their own homes, schools and/or community.

For more information visit <http://classroom.willstegerfoundation.org/about/youth-voices>

Chippewa River Watershed Project Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Friday, July 19th, 2013 the Chippewa River Watershed Project Board of Directors will be meeting at 9:00 A.M. at Benson City, Council Chambers to discuss ways in which they can improve water quality and flooding problems

within the Chippewa River watershed while promoting healthy agricultural, industrial, and recreation-based economy for the region.

For more information visit <http://www.chippewariver.com/>

Preliminary Draft Water Quality Variance Rule, Monday, July 22nd, 2013

A stakeholder meeting on a preliminary draft of the rules is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the MPCA office in St. Paul and will also be Webcast. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to ask questions about the preliminary draft rule and provide informal written comments (the formal) comment period occurs when the proposed rules are placed on public notice). More information about this meeting will be provided closer to the date.

For more information visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-permits-and-rules/water-rulemaking/water-quality-variance-rulemaking.html>

Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair 2013

The Eco Experience at the 2013 Minnesota State Fair will be filled with many new displays and interactive activities for fair goers of all ages. The Eco Experience is the largest event of its kind and this year's additions provide something for everyone. A partnership between the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and over 120 organizations and businesses from across the state, the Eco Experience has become the second most popular exhibit at the fair.

For more information visit <http://www.ecoexperience.org/> or <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/bulletins/815030>

DNR launches Legacy-funded website for kids to encourage getting outdoors this summer

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has launched "Get Out Minnesota," a new Legacy-funded website for kids ages 5 through 11. The site, which uses games and interactive tools to educate children about Minnesota's natural outdoor world, can be found at www.mndnr.gov/gokids. The website will draw children to the Minnesota State Parks and Trails website, but it also encourages them to get away from computers and other electronic devices and to spend time outdoors by visiting Minnesota state parks and trails. "We're combining what kids already do - spend lots of time on computers and other electronic devices - with incentive to unplug and discover the natural wonders of our state parks and trails," said Courtland Nelson, director of the DNR's Parks and Trails Division. "Ultimately, the Get Out Minnesota website is all about connecting the next generation to the outdoors."

To read the full press release visit <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2013/06/06/dnr-launches-legacy-funded-website-for-kids-to-encourage-getting-outdoors-this-summer/#more-12365>

Presentations Wanted! MNA is Seeking Presentation Applications for this year's MNA Conference – Deadline August 30th, 2013

The Minnesota Naturalists' Association (MNA) is seeking presenters for the 2013 MNA Conference at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro, MN on November 15-17. This year's conference theme Drawn to Nature explores the dynamic relationships between the arts and nature.

The Minnesota Naturalists' Association (MNA) is a non-profit organization of professional environmental educators, park rangers, naturalists, interpreters and volunteers throughout the state of Minnesota and beyond. MNA exists to advance natural and cultural resource interpretation for the purpose of fostering wise stewardship of all resources.

Conference presenters qualify to attend the conference at a discounted rate.

For more information and to apply visit <http://mnnaturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/2013-Conference-call-for-presentations.pdf>

Or contact Katie Pata at (651) 554-6532 or katie.pata@co.dakota.mn.us

2013 Midwest Environmental Education Conference (MEEC) will be September 25th – 28th, 2013

The 2013 Midwest Environmental Education Conference (MEEC) will be held September 25-28, 2013 at the Marriott Coralville Hotel Conference Center, Coralville, Iowa. The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition and the Iowa Association of Naturalists invite you to this! Teachers and naturalists throughout the Midwest will find the conference energizing, useful, and rewarding to attend. This regional gathering is meant to enlighten and inspire teachers, naturalists, and other environmental educators.

MEEC is a biennial event planned - on a rotating basis - by environmental educators in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. We are all affiliate members of NAAEE: the North American Environmental Education Association. Our conference is open to everyone who cares about a sustainable Earth and feels called to make it happen by teaching and inspiring others. We welcome attendees from states beyond the Midwest, as well as the provinces of Canada.

For more information visit <http://2013midwestenvironmentaleducationconference.wordpress.com/>

[Can we afford Obama's climate plan? This analysis makes it a real bargain](#)

Ron Meador, June 28th, 2013, MinnPost

One good way to understand the potential national impacts of President Obama's climate plan, laid out in his speech at Georgetown University on Tuesday, is to peruse a compelling piece of analysis that is widely credited with influencing the White House's thinking in designing the plan.

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[Minn. Gets federal money for bat disease](#)

Dan Gunderson, June 29th, 2013, MPR News

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is giving money to Minnesota and other Midwestern states to monitor bat populations for white-nose disease, which is caused by a fungus and has wiped out bat populations in parts of the eastern United States.

[Farm bill flops in U.S. House, again](#)

Tim Spielman, June 27th, 2013, Outdoor News

Washington — Following extensive debate, a deluge of offered amendments, and finally, a full U.S. House vote that killed a farm bill, the federal conservation program situation remains much the same as it was at the end of 2012: a Senate farm bill that's been approved, and the House without anything to show for its efforts.

[Anderson: Prairie Summit has giant task -- saving our fish and wildlife](#)

Dennis Anderson, June 23rd, 2013, StarTribune

The state's first Prairie Summit will take on a host of problems that threaten the very existence of our fish and wildlife.

[Experts optimistic yields will turn out OK in 2013](#)

Janet K. Willette, July 2nd, 2013, AgriNews

WASECA, Minn. — The spring of 2013 is the wettest on record at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. Their records date to 1915, said Tom Hoverstad, scientist at SROC. Hoverstad spoke at the June 18 Agronomy Field Tour at the center. A half inch of rain just hours before the event kept everyone indoors -- the fields were too muddy.

[Wind power is helping cut carbon-dioxide emissions at an impressive rate](#)

Michael Goggin, July 2nd, 2013, MinnPost

Rolf Westgard's July 1 letter doesn't give American wind power the credit it deserves in terms of its impressive growth and record of cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

[Grasslands the focus of Prairie Summit](#)

Joe Albert, July 4th, 2013, Outdoor News

IN WEST-CENTRAL MINNESOTA – The goal is noble, if not huge: enhance, restore and protect millions of acres of prairie and grassland in Minnesota over the next quarter-century.

[Lost bees more than just lost honey](#)

Lee Egerstrom, July 8th, 2013, Minnesota 2020

Oregon state agriculture officials are doing toxicology studies on dead bees found in parking lot near Portland to learn what is killing bees by the thousands.

[Farm bill support frays amid tight money, shifting alliances](#)

Brett Neely, July 8th, 2013, MPR News

WASHINGTON — For decades, Congress rolled food stamps and farm subsidies together into one giant bill. The tactic generated lots of rural and urban votes from politicians in both parties. Everyone got something out of the deal.

[MN SFA hosts fourth Festival of Farms July 13](#)

Carol Stender, July 8th, 2013, AgriNews

MONTROSE, Minn. — A Festival of Farms will be held July 13 featuring tours, demonstrations, food, fellowship and networking.

Events

July 8th -
July 15th

WEI'S 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "Seed Saving with the Seed Technician Magician"

Monday, July 8th, 2013

Location: Urban Farm Project

Brief Description: Annelle Lindberg-Livingston (Women's Environmental Institute) and Chad Herbert (Urban Farm Project)

For more information visit <http://www.w-e-i.org/wei039s-2013-organic-farm-school-you-can-pay-individual-classes-or-register-whole-lecture-series> or call (651) 583-0705

Clean Energy, Climate, and Health

Tuesday, July 9th, 2013 @ 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Rejoice Lutheran Church, Clearwater

Brief Description: Join us for a public discussion about the costs of burning coal to our climate, natural resources, economy, and health, and the opportunities for clean energy in Minnesota. Hear Will Steger's vivid, firsthand account of climate change with stunning photographs from his expeditions. J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director at Fresh Energy, will describe effective clean energy and clean air solutions that benefit our economy.

The forum will provide information on upcoming decisions about Xcel Energy's Sherco 1 and 2 coal plants and the opportunities for public comment to help move Minnesota to an innovative, clean energy future based on more solar, wind, and energy efficiency.

For more information visit <http://fresh-energy.org/2013/06/july-9-clean-energy-climate-and-health/> or contact J. Drake Hamilton at hamilton@fresh-energy.org or (651) 726-7562

Worknight in Pine Bend Bluffs

Thursday, July 11th, 2013 @ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Pine Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area, Inver Grove Heights

Brief Description: The Pine Bend Scientific & Natural Area (SNA) is known for some of the best views of the Upper Mississippi River, and is an award-winning restoration project! Friends of the Mississippi River staff will train volunteers to identify and remove the invasive species spotted knapweed to protect the prairie's threatened native plant species. Gloves, tools and guidance will be provided.

For more information visit http://fmr.org/participate/events/pine_bend_resto-2013-07-11 and to sign up, please contact FMR Event Registrar Lindsay Hefferan at lhefferan@fmr.org or [651-222-2193 x24](tel:651-222-2193).

Birding Renville County's Skalbekken Park

Saturday July 13th, 2013 from 6:00-10:00 a.m.

Brief Description: See and hear mid-summer birds in a lush county park.

For more information <http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/upcoming/> or (320) 269-2984

Final Summer 'Nature's Nook' Reading Program

Friday, July 12th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. — Saturday, July 13th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods

Brief Description: The event will be held July 12-13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods (555 Stoltzman Road) for children from ages pre-kindergarten through 7th grade along with their families: "Nature's Nook," a program free and open to the public, features story time, activities, games and a short lesson on topics such as recycling, trees and plants, water, pollution and Minnesota wildlife. Children should dress appropriately for weather conditions because hiking is an element of each session.

"'Nature's Nook' is designed to develop student leadership through literacy mentoring," said Denise Billington-Just, assistant director of community engagement at Minnesota State Mankato. "Our main initiative is to make those connections between community

and students.”

For more information email the Community Engagement Office at community.engagement@mnsu.edu or call (507) 389-5789

Fort Ridgely and the U.S. – Dakota War

Saturday, July 13th, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.

\$5 admission, MHS & NCHS Members free; state park vehicle permit is required

Location: Fort Ridgely State Historic Site

Brief Description: Independent historian Curt Dahlin will discuss the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and the roles played by Fort Ridgely and St. Peter. Curtis Dahlin grew up on a farm near Sisseton, South Dakota, on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation. He has spent decades researching the history of the Minnesota River Valley. Curt has recently published several books and will have them available to sign and sell.

For more information call (507) 426-7888 or (507) 934-2160

Tea Party at the Cox House

Saturday, July 13th, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Cox House. 500 North Washington Avenue, Saint Peter, MN

Brief Description: Children aged 5 to 10 are invited to bring their American Girl doll (or other favorite doll) and an adult friend to a tea party at the Cox House. Tea and sandwiches will be served. Guests will listen to historical American Girl stories and participate in crafts. In addition, children will learn about the role that tea played in the culture of earlier Saint Peter residents. The home was formerly the residence of Eugene St. Julien Cox, Saint Peter’s first mayor, and was a local center of social activity for the prospering riverside town.

The cost is \$15 for one child and adult. An additional child may attend for \$10. Guests are encouraged to dress in their finest tea party clothes. Reservations are necessary, as seating is limited.

For more information contact Susan Carlin at (507) 382-5162 or sdgcarlin@gmail.com

WEI's 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "Tour of Seed Savers Exchange"

Saturday, July 13th, 2013

Location: Decorah, IA

Brief Description: Car caravan and farm tour at Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, IA.

For more information <http://www.w-e-i.org/wei039s-2013-organic-farm-school-you-can-pay-individual-classes-or-register-whole-lecture-series> or call (651) 583-0705

Monte-Granite Riverfront Disc Golf Classic

Saturday, July 13th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Sunset Lodge # 109 Disc Golf Course in Lagoon Park, Montevideo

Brief Description: The public is invited to come and learn the basic of disc golf. The first 100 participants will receive a free disc. There will be four stations that will teach basic disc skills and beginning at 10:00 a.m. there will be open recreational paly to practice those skills.

Saturday July 13th, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.

Location: Sunset Lodge # 109 Disc Golf Course in Lagoon Park,

Brief Description: Montevideo Those folks with a few skills under their belt, registration begins for the first ever Monte-Granite Riverfront Disc Golf Classic. This non-sanctioned open will have three categories for competition: Men’s, Women’s, and Youth. The entry fee is \$10 per person. There will be prizes awarded on Sunday after the two-day, 36-hole event.

Saturday, July 13th, 2013 evening

Location: Wegdahl County Park

Brief Description: There will be a light supper and beginning at 7:00 P.M. there will be a Disc Golf Exhibition throwing contest. This event is free and open to the public – so bring your own lawn chairs, bug spray, and whatever else you may want with you!

Saturday, July 13th, 2013 @ 8:30 p.m.

Location: Wegdahl County Park

Brief Description: S’mores and a campfire.

Sunday, July 14th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.

Location: River's Edge Disc Golf Course in downtown Granite Falls.

Brief Description: Competitors will finish the last 18 holes. Winners and awards will be announced at 1:00 p.m. or when the play finishes.

For more information about The Monte-Granite Riverfront Disc Golf Classic please contact CURE at 1(877) 269-2873 or visit the Facebook pages for CURE MN River, Sunset Lodge #109 Disc Golf Course and River's Edge Disc Golf Course for more details as they are posted.

Afternoon of Leisure

Sunday, July 14th, 2013 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Sunday afternoons in the 1870's were family time or time to relax, visit friends or maybe do a bit of fancywork. There will be a showing of some of their work in tatting, hardanger, knitting and other types of work. Any one that does this type of work and would like to show their fancywork art is welcome to come and visit with our visitors.

Visitors will be able to tour the store, have a game of checkers or visit on the porch while also seeing the displays of work. Refreshments will be served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE HARKIN STORE (507) 354-8666 OR NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (507) 934-2160

LAC QUI PARLE MISSION SUNDAY

Sunday, July 14th, 2013

Location: Watson, MN

Brief Description: Historical event.

For more information contact Montevideo Chamber of Commerce (320) 269-5527

**July 15th -
July 21st**

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, July 16th, 2013 @ 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Memorial Park in Fairfax, MN

Brief Description: The public is invited to attend a free picnic and farm tour starting at Memorial Park in Fairfax Minnesota and continuing from there to the Simonsen Discovery Farm.

Citizens from throughout the Minnesota River watershed will be gathering in Fairfax for the quarterly meeting of the Alliance which is dedicated to working together to advance a common sense plan for a clean Minnesota River. This month's meeting is being sponsored in part by the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center.

Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass at the picnic at the park in Fairfax where an informal networking session will take place over food before carpools leave to learn about the work being done by the Simonsen family to manage for water quality improvements to the river.

For more information, contact the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance blog site:

<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com> or call Brad Cobb: 320-943-4695.

“State of the River” Presentation (Mississippi River)

Tuesday, July 16th, 2013 @ 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Hayes Community and Senior Center, Apply Valley

Brief Description: At the presentation, the report's principal authors will summarize a wealth of water quality and aquatic ecosystem data, highlighting key trends and emerging issues that impact the river, as well as provide an overview of potential solutions to protect the river and its watershed. The second half of the event will feature a hosted conversation with Trevor, Lark and local water quality experts, where participants will have the opportunity to contribute questions.

For more information visit http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/state_of_the_river-2013-07-16 and to sign up, please contact FMR Event Registrar Lindsay Hefferan at lhefferan@fmr.org or [651-222-2193](tel:651-222-2193) x24.

Friends of Minneopa Public Meeting

Thursday, July 18th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location North Mankato Municipal Building

Brief Description: The Friends of Minneopa State Park is hosting a general meeting open to the public on Thursday July 18th at 7:00 pm at the lower level of the North Mankato Municipal Building at the end of Belgrade Ave.

The theme of the evening is titled "Minneopa Potpourri". There will be a short movie called 'Minneopa Through the Seasons', Merrill Frydendall will discuss the birds of Minneopa and there will be a talk called 'Minneopa.

For more information contact Tim Pullis tpulis@hickorytech.net

Parent-Child Play Day

Friday, July 19th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.

Location: Rasmussen Woods

Brief Description: Preschool and early school-age children and their parents are invited to a free Parent-Child Play Day. The event is directed by students and faculty from MSU-Mankato Family Consumer Science. No-cost activities will encourage children and their parents in play. Event will be held rain or shine.

For more information contact Heather Von Bank at (507) 389-5915 or heather.von-bank@mnsu.edu

Ecology Games

Friday, July 19th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Have some fun exploring the natural world around us through a variety of hands-on activities. We will play the Incredible Journey game by pretending you are a water drop moving through the water cycle made up of nine stations. In addition there will be that chance to identify 15 animal tracks and test your knowledge of what signs a variety of mammals live behind. Finally there will be macroinvertebrates to look at pulled from Minneopa Creek. Macroinvertebrates are aquatic insects that tell us how good or bad the water quality is in a stream. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side of Minneopa State Park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Digital Photography for Children

Friday, July 19th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Photography is a great way to take some memories home with you after your visit to a state park. Kids will get a chance to learn how to use a digital camera and shoot photos of what interests them. Digital cameras are provided and the kids will be able to print one photo to take with them. Limit of 20 kids (must be 8 years of age and accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic area on campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890
scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Paddling the MN River Watershed: One Day Chippewa River Trip

Saturday July 20th, 2013

For more information <http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/upcoming/> or (320) 269-2984

Cause of the U.S.—Dakota War and Battlefield Tour

Saturday, July 20th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. program and 2:30 p.m. battlefield tour

Location: Fort Ridgely

Brief Description: The causes of the US/Dakota War in 1862 were many and complicated. Independent

Historian John LaBatte will examine why some Dakota Indians wanted war while others opposed war. At least 9 of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the US/Dakota War in 1862. Historic Fort Ridgely is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Battlefield and is listed twice on the National Register of Historic Places. Join LaBatte for the 1pm program, and again for the 2:30 walking tour. \$5 admission, MHS and NCHS members free. A state park vehicle sticker is required for all.

For more information call (507) 426-7888 or (507) 934-2160

Paddling the MN River Watershed: MN River Trip from Memorial Park down to Upper Sioux Agency State Park
Sunday, July 21st, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m.

Location: Memorial Park on Highway 67 just outside of Granite Falls
Brief Description: A sack lunch will be provided. Bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and bug spray and layer your clothes. You might want to wear shoes that can get wet.

For more information and to register visit <http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1 (877) 269-2873

Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman
Sunday July 21st, 2013 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store
Brief Description: Pioneer women were an important part of the development of the territory of Minnesota and the state. The women of that time worked along side of their men while performing the duties of the house as well. Sewing, cooking cleaning, gardening, child rearing. Life was not easy for the women of the prairie. Through various displays, see how the pioneer women live, from the basic housekeeping to entertainment, the display will be all day.

For more information call the Harkin Store (507) 354-8666 or Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

**July 22nd -
July 28th**

WEI'S 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "It All Comes Down to 'Humus'"
Monday, July 22nd, 2013

Location: Midtown Global Market Greenway Conference Room, 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN
Brief Description: Professor Pat Farrell (UMD - Department of Geography)

For more information visit <http://www.w-e-i.org/calendar> or call (651) 583-0705

Rapidan Dam Bike Ride
Tuesday, July 23rd, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Departs from the Centennial Student Union main entrance at Minnesota State University
Brief Description: The annual "Dam Bike Ride!", sponsored by Minnesota State University, Mankato's Student Activities Crew, from Centennial Student Union on the Minnesota State Mankato campus to Rapidan Dam and back. And, participants will have the delicious option of breaking up the ride with a slice of homemade pie at the Rapidan Dam Café. The 12-mile ride, which is open to the public free of charge, departs from the Centennial Student Union main entrance at 3 p.m., said Ashley Strom, coordinator. And while the ride is free, the pie does cost whatever the going rate for a slice of pie is at the Café, she added.
If it's raining on July 23, the ride will be moved to July 24. No registration is needed; just show up with your bike in time to leave at 3 p.m.

For more information contact Ashley Strom ashley.strom@mnsu.edu or (507) 389-6076

Tallgrass Prairie Walk
Tuesday, July 23rd, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.

Location: Linnaeus Arboretum, Gustavus Adolphus, St. Peter, MN
Brief Description: Learn which tallgrass prairie plants made horses run faster, which ones

often started prairie wildfires, and where you can find tallgrass prairie remnants today. Join Arboretum Naturalist Scott Moeller for an informative walk through the tallgrass prairies of the Linnaeus Arboretum. This is a free program, but registration is required by calling (507) 933-6184

Tour the Gneiss Outcrops SNA

Wednesday, July 24th, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Memorial Park on Highway 67 in shelter

Brief Description: Bring a sack lunch and meet at 5pm to visit about the area and learn a bit about the importance of the river valley to the Dakota people. Raised in the Ortonville area and currently residing in Belview, Robertson brings a bit of his own experience and love of the river valley to this outdoor adventure.

Bring a water bottle, bug spray, wear long pants and sturdy shoes for hiking. You may also want a hat and sunscreen. The group will meet at the Memorial Park shelter and then car pool to the hiking location.

For more information or to register call CURE at 1(877) 269 –2873

Archery in the Park

Friday, July 26th, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years. First we did it as a way to compete against others. Archery is an activity that people from all walks of life and almost every size and ability can participate and have fun. This program covers the basic of archery including safety, proper care of the equipment and how to shoot an arrow. Participants will be able to practice their new skills on a number of different targets including a white-tail deer and wild turkey. Please meet at staff housing area right before the contact station when you enter the park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Wolf Ecology

Friday, July 26th, 2013 @ 7:30 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: Wolves have been feared, sentimentalized and slaughtered, yet they somehow have managed to resist extinction. The wolf is a complex, controversial and colorful creature that was once found throughout Minnesota before almost being wiped out. We will talk about some of the more interesting characteristics of wolves and read accounts of human interactions with this animal. Meet at the playground at the Day Use Area near the swimming pond.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Hope Tour Churning

Saturday, July 27th, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m.

Location: Hope Creamery, Hope, MN

Brief Description: The butter will be churning at the Hope Creamery during a tour hosted by the South Central Chapter of Sustainable Farming Association. Attendees will also be able to tour the SunOpta seed cleaning, conditioning and processing facility, learn about the importance of soil biology for productivity in your crop fields or garden, discuss certification and environmental criteria for organic growers and enjoy a picnic lunch! The event begins at 11:00 a.m. with registration starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Old Hope School. All activities are free to the public.

10:15 a.m. Registration - Old Hope School

11:00 a.m. Butter making tour at the Old Hope Creamery

12:00 p.m. Picnic lunch at the Old Hope School

1:00 p.m. Presentations on Soil Biology and Organic & Environmental Considerations at the Old Hope School

2:00 p.m. SunOpta Tour

For more information contact Linda Meschke at (507) 238-5449 or at linda@ruraladvantage.org

Water Cycle

Saturday, July 27th, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: We know water is essential for us to live. Water is everywhere moving from one form to another and from one place to another. We see it in the falling rain, a flowing river, and steam rising from a warm surface. In this program you will become a water molecule, simulating the movement of water within the water cycle and showing how it doesn't flow equally across the landscape. In addition, we will also discover the role of heat and gravity in the water cycle. Please meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Wonderful World of Wetlands

Tuesday, July 27th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Wetlands are more than swamps or smelly bodies of water collecting trash and breeding mosquitoes. At one time thousands of wetlands of all sizes were an integral part of the tall-grass prairie landscape in the Minnesota River Basin. Benefits of wetlands can run the gambit like providing water storage, improving water quality and critical wildlife habitat. Come out to Minneopa State Park to learn about some of the cool creatures and plants that live in wetlands and take a hike around one. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Christmas in July

Sunday, July 28th, 2013 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Harking store will celebrate a Scottish Christmas in honor of Alexander Harkin's native Scotland. There will be Scottish "goodies" for your sampling. There will be decorations and the gift shop will have a tree up with items for Christmas.

For more information call the Harkin Store (507) 354-8666 or Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

**July 29th -
August 4th**

Harkin Store 34th Annual West Newton Day

Sunday, August 4th, 2013

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Find your old pictures of the area and stories for this and come share your bit of history with our visitors and us. We will also post contact information for those who want to find relatives or other information. We will be able to do copying for you and us.

For more information call the Harkin Store (507) 354-8666 or Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

**August 5th -
August 11th**

Summer Institute on Minnesota's Changing Climate

Tuesday, August 6th – Wednesday, August 7th, 2013

Location: Fort Snelling State Park, Saint Paul, MN

Brief Description: Dive into the classroom and outdoor components of the Will Steger Foundation's [Minnesota's Changing Climate](#) (MCC) curriculum. Program includes: A deep introduction to climate science and the impacts of climate change in Minnesota for teachers of grades 3-12
Paddling with professional park rangers, naturalists and Wilderness Inquiry guides on the

serene Mississippi River
Hands-on phenology training and weather station activities in the park (and more!)

For more information or to sign-up visit <http://willstegerfoundation.org/summer-institute/summer-institutes-2013/2013-minnesotas-changing-cimate>

IDEAg Farmfest

Tuesday, August 6th - Thursday, August 8th, 2013

Location: Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, MN

Brief Description: In its third decade, the IDEAg Farmfest continues to connect industry leading manufacturers/providers with decision making producers.

Farmfest is one of the largest agricultural events in the world and it brings the best products and services to an audience that is drawn from every Minnesota county and has many visitors from five neighboring states

For more information and to register visit <http://www.ideagroup.com/farmfest>

Game Fair

Friday, August 9th - Sunday, August 11th, 2013 and Friday, August 16th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Ramsey, MN

Brief Description: Game fair is a sporting event for the entire family. Held in the out-of-doors on 80 beautiful acres of wood and water. Game Fair has everything you need to celebrate the outdoors.

Game Fair 2013 will feature many favorite activities from years past as well as new exhibits, renovated grounds and new dog events.

You are invited to attend Game Fair 2013 will feature many favorite activities from a variety of expert sportsmen and sportswomen. Special exhibits include: archery, decoys, duck boats, art, dogs, dog accessories, taxidermy and all the latest in hunting equipment for the outdoor enthusiast.

For more information visit <http://www.gamefair.com/>

Paddling the MN River Watershed: Minnesota River Trip in Renville County

Saturday, August 10th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Skalbakken County Park in Renville County

Brief Description: A sack lunch will be provided. Bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and bug spray and layer your clothes. You might want to wear shoes that can get wet.

For more information and to register visit

<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1(877) 269-2873

Girls Rule—Fishing with Diana: Kinney Landing

Saturday, August 10th, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.

Location: Kinney Landing off of Highway 67 along the Minnesota River

Brief Description: An opportunity to learn the basics of river fishing from tying and baiting your own hook, casting and basic fish identification. Participants should bring a water bottle, bug spray, sunglasses, sturdy shoes that may get wet. CURE has a few rods available for use...be sure to let us know that you need one when you register.

For more information and to register visit

<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1 (877) 269-2873

Paddling the MN River Watershed: New Ulm Area Minnesota River Day Trip

Sunday, July 11th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Riverside Park in New Ulm

Brief Description: A sack lunch will be provided. Bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and bug spray and layer your clothes. You might want to wear shoes that can get wet.

For more information and to register visit

<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1 (877) 269-2873

August

The Real Lizard People: Skinks in the MN River Valley

12th - Thursday, August 15th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

August 18th

Location: Swede's Forest SNA

Brief Description: A chance to see a species of special concern in Minnesota, the five-lined skink (also known as Blue Devils) and to learn more about why clearing red juniper from granite outcrops helps the small, fast lizards. We'll also see some interesting historical small-scale quarry remains, cactus and other interesting flora.

Wear sturdy shoes suitable for hiking, bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen.

Binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Main office parking lot, Upper Sioux Agency State Park for a car pool to the SNA (limited rough parking at the site).

For more information and to register visit

<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1(877) 269-2873

Job Announcements

SEED & NOXIOUS WEED SPECIALIST

Department: Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture

Closing Date: July 3rd, 2013

Location(s): Koochiching, MN; St. Louis, MN; Lake, MN; Cook, MN; Itasca, MN; Aitkin, MN; Carlton, MN; Pine, MN; Mille Lacs, MN; Kanabec, MN; Benton, MN; Sherburne, MN; Isanti, MN; Chisago, MN; Wright, MN; and Anoka, MN.

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: The position exists to perform professional level regulatory/investigatory work in a designated work area and provides professional level technical support of the Seed Regulatory Program so that purchasers of seed have protection from mislabeled or unfit products. The position will ensure the seed industry receives fair trade practices regulation; assist the Plant Protection Division management in achieving the goals and representing the accomplishments of the unit; and, assist the unit with the responsibility to enforce provisions of Minnesota Statutes sections 21.80 to 21.92, the Minnesota Seed Law; M.S. sections 18.76 to 18.92, the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law, and M.S. sections 21.71 to 21.78, the Minnesota Screenings Act. This position also serves to provide assistance to other programs within the Plant Protection Division and department, county state and federal agencies, appropriate private organizations and individuals.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13AGR000062

FORESTRY SPECIALIST

Department: Forestry/Central Region, Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: July 5th, 2013

Location(s): Little Falls, MN

Who May Apply: Only current employees in this agency

Responsibilities:

This position provides professional level program support work and administers and implements Division of Forestry programs at the area administrative level.

Division of Forestry programs include: State Land Management, Cooperative Forest Management, Resource Protection, Forest Resource Information and Analysis, Nursery and Tree Improvement and Administrative and Technical Support.

State Land Management Program: Administer and implement state forest management policies and procedures. Manage, develop and protect complex forest ecosystems; apply silvicultural principles and practices to promote forest health and productivity; appraise forest resources for harvest; design harvest systems and regulations for timber sales; mark timber sale boundaries; administer state timber sales; measure cut forest products; and inspect state leases. Communicate to the public, stake holders and other natural resource professionals on department policies, procedures, regulations and natural resources forestry science.

Cooperative Forest Management Program: Administer and implement cooperative forest management policies and procedures. Assist non-industrial forest woodland owners with the stewardship of their lands by providing forest management assistance and advice. Communicate to the public, stake holders and other natural resource professionals on department policies, procedures, regulations and natural resources forestry science.

Resource Protection Program: Administer and implement forest resource protection policies and procedures. Collect and analyze weather information; plan for and manage suppression of wild fires; and oversee enforcement of natural resource protection statutes. Communicate to the public, stake holders and other natural resource professionals on department policies, procedures regulations, and natural resources forestry science.

Forest Resource Information and Analysis Program: Administer and implement forest resource information and analysis policies and procedures. Collect and record forest resources information following the Forest Inventory Module (FIM) policies and procedures. Communicate to the public, stake holders and other natural resource professionals on department policies, procedures, regulations and natural resources forestry science.

Formal Training: Complete formal Division of Forestry classroom and field training sessions as assigned.

Operational Support: Provide work direction to other professional staff, technicians, laborers, temporary crews and contractors.

For more information or to apply visit [http://www.careers.state.mn.us/Posting Number 13DNR000576](http://www.careers.state.mn.us/PostingNumber13DNR000576). If you have any questions contact John Korzeniowski (320) 616-2450 ext. 233 or john.korzeniowski@state.mn.us

REGIONAL WATER SPECIALIST

Department: Water & Soil Resources

Closing Date: July 15th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This Clean Water Specialist will perform duties necessary for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to carry out its statutory responsibilities under the Clean Water Legacy Act and the Clean Water Fund appropriation authority in Minnesota with a primary focus on the Twin Cities Metro Region. This position will provide administrative and advanced technical assistance, leadership and implementation guidance to BWSR staff, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, cities, and counties. This position will provide senior level leadership in the development and implementation of non-point pollution restoration and protection plans, watershed management plans, TMDL

implementation plans and will also pilot planning activities under the recently enacted Comprehensive Water Management Planning process. This position will provide coordination of activities with soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, cities and counties in the Metro Region, between state and federal agencies such as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Health, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Metropolitan Council.

For more information <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number # 13BWSR000018

MN WATER PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Department: Conservation Minnesota

Closing Date: July 17th, 2013

Location(s): Minneapolis, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: From our four “real” seasons to our 10,000 lakes, the Great Outdoors defines life here. It is where many of our most cherished memories are created with family and friends. Passing our experiences and traditions on to our children, being good stewards of our land and lakes — these are values that we all share. At Conservation Minnesota & Conservation Minnesota Voter Center, we turn your love of Minnesota’s Great Outdoors into the laws that protect it. We focus on solving the conservation problems that Minnesotans tell us are important, and provide people with information and opportunities to help. Conservation Minnesota & Conservation Minnesota Voter Center are seeking a water protection enthusiast to develop and carry out a new grant funded program. This person will conduct aquatic invasive species (AIS) trainings across the state while building relationships with Lake and River association members. This position is currently funded for one year, though with success, we hope to renew the grant for many years to come.

Responsibilities include:

- Act as a liaison between the organization and members of lake and river associations across the state.
- Cultivate network of lake and river association members and engage them in issue campaigns.
- Coordinate, promote, conduct, and evaluate AIS trainings around the state.
- Conduct outreach activities and assist with member communications regarding AIS and other water related issues.
- Work with partner organizations to promote trainings, activate network, and advance water quality related issue campaigns.
- Represent the organization in multi-agency planning efforts for 2014 Lakes and Rivers Conference.
- Assist lake and river associations with maintenance and hosting of their member websites.

For more information visit <http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/mn-waters-program-coordinator/> to apply send your cover letter and resume to Rebecca@conservationminnesota.org

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST 1 OR 2

Department: PHL/Organic Chemistry, Health Department

Closing Date: July 8th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This vacancy is being announced at two different job classifications simultaneously: Environmental Analyst 1 (13HEAL000318) and Environmental Analyst 2 (13HEAL000319). Only one position will be filled. The final classification is dependent on the successful applicant's qualifications. If you want to be considered for both classifications and believe you meet the minimum qualifications identified in the job posting, please apply to both job postings.

This position is located in the Public Health Laboratory Division, Environmental Laboratory Section, Organic Chemistry Unit. The Public Health Laboratory is one of the premier public health labs in the nation. The Environmental Section conducts scientific analyses of environmental samples (e.g., air, water, and soil) to identify and monitor potential threats to human health and to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. The Organic Chemistry Unit of the Environmental Section performs over 9,000 tests annually with an analyte list of over 300 volatile, semi-volatile, and non-volatile compounds. Instrumentation for measurement includes, but is not limited to, gas chromatographs, high-pressure liquid chromatographs, and mass spectrometers.

Responsibilities for Environmental Analyst 1 include:

- This position will analyze environmental samples using techniques and instrumentation appropriate for organic chemistry analysis and provide analytical results to clientele so that potentially hazardous situations are detected, monitored, and corrected.
- Perform standard chemical analyses on environmental samples.
- Perform sample preparation on environmental samples.
- Participate in quality assurance activities, enter data into laboratory Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), report results, assist in review and revision of methods and procedures.
- Perform miscellaneous tasks, including calibrating and troubleshooting equipment, updating knowledge of analytical techniques and instrumentation, and practicing good laboratory safety.

For more information and to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number 13HEAL000318 or contact Paul Swedenborg (651) 201-5333 or paul.swedenborg@state.mn.us

Responsibilities for Environmental Analyst 2 include:

- The primary duty of this position will be to perform chemical analyses on air samples for semi-volatile organic compounds using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry.
- Perform complex chemical analyses on environmental samples.
- Participate in quality assurance activities, enter data into laboratory Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), report results, assist in review and revision of methods and procedures.
- Perform miscellaneous tasks, including calibrating and troubleshooting equipment, updating knowledge of analytical techniques and instrumentation, and practicing good laboratory safety.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>

Posting Number 13HEAL000319 or contact Paul Swedenborg (651) 201-5333 or paul.swedenborg@state.mn.us

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER

Department: Parks and Trails/Central Off

Closing Date: July 8th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

This position will require occasional evening and/or weekend hours and frequent travel to Parks & Trails administered lands. This position exists to: Provide professional technical support to the Division of Parks & Trails' statewide Development and Acquisition programs by managing high priority park, trail and water access facility construction projects, coordinating cultural resource review of projects and implementing real estate acquisition projects statewide. Incumbent will track project/acquisition expenditures, manage project timelines and coordinate with regional field staff, Lands & Minerals and Management Resources staff to complete work.

Job Duties:

- Manage parks, trails and water access facility construction projects.
- Coordinate and implement the Division of Parks & Trails, parks, trails and water access facility (new/rehab/infrastructure) development programs.
- Coordinate Division land acquisitions, leases, easements, licenses, permits and other interest conveying interests on or across Division lands for the state parks, state recreation areas, state trails and public water accesses.
- Administer, coordinate and initiate resolution to statewide land trespass issues so that the Division's interests are incorporated and addressed.
- Assure responsibility for safety in all activities.

For more information or to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number 13DNR000581. If you have any questions contact Dana Vanderbosch at (651) 259-5631 or dana.vanderbosch@state.mn.us

MONITORING HYDROLOGIST

Department: Ecological & Water Resources, Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: July 8th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: Only current employees of this agency

Responsibilities: This position will collect, manage and analyze hydrologic data to support science-based water resources management decision-making. Support the operation and maintenance of DNR Ecological and Waters Resources stream, lake and ground water data collection programs. Assist in the organization and management of DNR Ecological and Waters monitoring and geologic mapping data. Assist with the analysis of surface and ground water data to support sound conclusions and recommendations on water resource management issues.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting Number 13DNR000583

AMA HABITAT CREW LEADER

- Department:** Fish and Wildlife/Region 4
- Closing Date:** July 8th, 2013
- Location(s):** Hutchinson, MN
- Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers
- Responsibilities:** This position exists to conduct habitat management and planning activities for DNR Fisheries-administered lands, with primary focus on Aquatic Management Areas (AMA). The incumbent serves as crew leader for a seasonal work crew; implements habitat improvement and initial site development projects; prepares habitat management plans for individual AMA units; and develops habitat maintenance, restoration and enhancement project proposals.
- Major Responsibilities:
- Conduct Initial Site Development (ISD) activities for newly acquired AMAs funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund.
 - Implement habitat maintenance, restoration and enhancement projects on DNR Aquatic Management Areas and other state lands.
 - Develop comprehensive habitat management plans, and maintenance needs, for individual AMA units.
 - Prepare habitat maintenance, restoration and enhancement project proposals for AMAs and other state lands.

For more information or to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us>/Posting Number 13DNR000585. If you have any questions contact Brian Schultz at (507) 359-6026 or brian.schultz@state.mn.us

"Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty."

-John Ruskin

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa/> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Basin.